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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF THE VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY, 1908-1909. TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN. Richmond, Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1910.

VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE IN VIRGINIA. Special Report of the Department of Archives and History. H. J. Eckenrode, Archivist. Richmond, Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1910, pp. 164, with index.

VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY. A TRIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF COLONIAL VIRGINIA (1754-1776). Special Report of the Department of Bibliography. William Clapton-Torrence, Bibliographer. Richmond, Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1910, pp. 94, with index.

The report of Dr. H. R. McIlwaine, State Librarian, is cheering to all who are interested in library work in Virginia. He shows how, in all departments, steady progress has been made, and makes useful suggestions for still better work. Since his report was written the large upper story of the new wing has been assigned to the Library, and has now been occupied in the most useful way.

It is, of course, with the historical work of the Library, that we are chiefly concerned.

The Special Report of the Department of Archives and History is treated separately.

The conclusion, for the present, of the *Trial Bibliography of Colonial Virginia*, is again a most valuable presentation of what was published in or about Virginia during the Colonial period. This part of the work was done in the face of many obstacles as the original notes and copy were destroyed by fire. Fortunately duplicates of a number of titles had been preserved elsewhere, and by diligent work in the libraries in Richmond and correspondence with those in other parts of the country, the loss has been, to a great extent, repaired. There are 249 titles in the present report, covering the period 1754-1776.

In this case, as in the first report, the bibliography will be a revelation to all except a very few specialists and will be of the greatest help to all students of Virginia history. It is to be hoped that the Library may authorize Mr. Torrence to carry on his good work.

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE IN VIRGINIA. A STUDY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REVOLUTION. Virginia State Library. Special Report of the Department of Archives and History. H. J. Eckenrode, Archivist. Richmond, 1910.

We have before spoken in this department of the good work in progress among the State Archives, and particularly of the admirable

Calendar of Petitions. The work on this calendar appears, most unfortunately all students of our history will think, to be suspended for the present.

The book now under consideration is a triumphant vindication of the policy of placing a man of talents, trained in a great university to scholarly research, at the head of the manuscript department, and permitting him, in addition to merely mechanical duties, to bring forth some of the fruits of his studies in the documents under his charge.

The Separation of Church and State was one of the great, vital things in our history, and it is not paying Dr. Eckenrode's book anything like the praise it deserves, to say that it is by far the best work on the subject. It is the only book written with full knowledge of the sources by a trained historical student and a man with no brief for any church or party; but one who considers every branch of his subject in an eminently sane and judicious fashion.

The various books already written on the subject, while all of them have value, have in most cases been written from the view point of a denomination and there has rarely been opportunity for full knowledge, while some of the writers have totally lacked any just sense of historic perspective.

Almost as valuable as the religious study is that which shows how much and in what way this struggle for the separation of Church and State was an incident in the history of a progressive democracy which, at one time went so far that it seemed to verge on anarchy. The protest in one of the Baptist petitions against a law requiring ministers to make returns of marriages to any public official, is an instance of the extreme individualism, which a portion of the people of Virginia had reached.

The first chapter of Dr. Eckenrode's book gives a brief, but carefully studied account of the establishment during the colonial period. This is an unusually fair-minded and liberal account; but the author acknowledges that the final word cannot be said until an exhaustive special study of this subject has been made. This is followed by a chapter on "The Parsons Cause," with the feeling of irritation against the establishment which it caused. Then comes in chapter three a brief history of the establishment in Virginia and of the dissenting denominations, and from chapter four to the end is given in great detail and thoroughness the struggle which began with the declaration in the Bill of Rights and ended with the the sale of the glebes and other church property and the repeal of the act incorporating the Episcopal Church.

Throughout the book the manuscript sources are fully and admirably used, and there is everywhere evidence of most careful and unbiased consideration of the facts presented.

The book is a very valuable addition to American history and the author and the State Library deserve the gratitude of all students.